



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024



GROUP NEWS AND VIEWS.....



Monday Crochet Group

Following a short foray into Tunisian/Afghan crochet, the consensus was, it was very boring and caused pain for some of us in our thumb joints. However, it is another skill the group have acquired. At the start of this class in September 2022, we were all complete beginners. Now in 2024, everyone can crochet, and read a pattern/chart.

The project for 2024 is to tackle a complete project beyond the granny square blanket donated earlier this year to Keech Children’s Hospice. The blanket is a design by Jane Crow called Persian Tiles. Not a group project this time as each person is making their own blanket. The design is complex, colourful, composed of two distinct motifs repeated. So far so good: brain cells are being challenged and the group support is invaluable when dealing with a tricky part of the pattern. My mother used to call it “sitting next to Nelly”, you watch someone else and copy. Oh, and we put the world to rights at the same time!
Carole Yude



Religions of the World

On the morning of Monday, March 18th, our group embarked on an excursion to the Buddhist temple in Kingsbury. We were greeted with a warm and hospitable welcome from Senari and Haymar, our hosts for the day. Despite encountering some technical glitches that obscured parts of Senari's discourse on the genesis of Buddhism (basically we couldn't hear him), our curiosity remained piqued, and we had an engaging exchange of questions and insights



(which we could hear). We then learnt the intricacies of this ancient tradition. As our minds expanded, so too did our appreciation for the rituals and practices observed in the temple. We participated in the sacred act of blessing the covered food, symbolizing our gratitude for the sustenance provided for the temple community, with the melodious chants of their prayers sung in unison. We then engaged in a brief five-minute meditation session. In the stillness of our minds, we found clarity and peace, a welcome respite from the bustle of daily life. Emerging from our meditative state, we were greeted with an array of refreshments. Drinks and Sri Lankan biscuits and pani pol, Sri Lankan coconut pancakes. They were delicious especially with the spicy chutney they served with them. We said goodbye and thanked our hosts and were surprised to hear that Senari was off to prison.



Prison? 🤔 He’s a prison chaplain. **Jacqui Hyams**

'RUSTY RACKETS' Tennis Group

The tennis group met regularly throughout winter and have emerged into the spring full of beans and looking forward to the warmer weather. New members are warmly welcomed regardless of ability. We meet every Monday morning at Elstree Lawn Tennis club. For more information, contact Tony 020 8954 6685 or tonyetherton1@gmail.com



Beginners Bridge



We have now completed six out of the eight fortnightly sessions on the rudiments of how to bid and play contract bridge.

We believe the participants are starting to get the hang of it so that they will be comfortable playing with their friends.

Of course, this is only the start of the journey, as seasoned bridge players will know that in this fascinating game there is always something new to learn.

We have been asked whether there will be further sessions but unfortunately this will not happen as our supply of Valium has run out !! **Pamela and Jerry**

"The Lunch Bunch" continues to meet in two small groups as few restaurants will take a booking of over eight people. (Although I have found a few who do, it's a rarity). We had thought of two of us making a booking at the same time, but with our luck we would probably not be sitting anywhere near to each other! We are a friendly group who enjoy lunching and chatting together and would like some new people to join us. We have room for a few more. Couples, singles, men, women you are all welcome to join us. So, if you are interested please let me know. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. Best wishes for a Happy Easter and Passover - **Carole Gold**

Jigsaws

This month's jigsaw puzzle was great fun. How many can you remember buying a puzzle ? If you would like to borrow a puzzle from our library or join our group the first Tuesday morning of the month. I would love to hear from you. Phone 0771 137 4612 or email dianemyers1950@gmail.com **Diane Myers**



Radlett & District u3a Science & Technology Group



Meeting dates for your diary:

17th April 2024 – Presentation on **Marconi and the Beginning of Radio.**

29th May 2024 – Presentation on **Visual Perception**, including how our eyes and brain detect edges, colour, movement and depth and how technology is being used to restore sight for people blinded by degenerative eye diseases.

Both meetings will be at the Radlett Reform Synagogue (WD7 7AA) from 11.00am to 1.00pm and there will be a £4 fee per person to cover costs. **Steve Kirsh.** stephenkirsh@yahoo.com

Remarkable Women

At our March meeting, we welcomed back David Bagon who gave a talk about Katherine Johnson who was born in 1918, an American Mathematician whose calculations of orbital trajectory, as a NASA employee, were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed space flights. She was one of the first African-American **women** to work as a NASA scientist. Some of us had seen the film 'Hidden Figures' about her achievements. Worth seeing!

On Monday April 8th. I am happy to announce that Jonathan Bergwerk will return to our group to give a presentation on Emma Goldman, born 1869 in Lithuania, a revolutionary, political activist and writer. This will be at my house at 3.15 pm as usual. **Carmel Byers**



Walking 4-5 miles

- Mon 8th Apr 2024 at 10:00, Walk Leader: Allan Cole. Meet at 601 Bus Stop opposite Gail's in Radlett 10:15 bus to Tesco Borehamwood - then walk back to Radlett.
- Mon 13th May 2024 at 10:00, Walk Leader: Yvonne Palmer. Circular walk from the car park at the Verulamium Museum via Childwick Green. Great walk but we're doing it backwards since the last time. I'm unsure whether we're walking backwards or doing the route in reverse but I have no doubt we will find out in due course.
- Mon 10th June 2024 at 10:00, Walk Leader: Edward Cross. Meet at 10:10 at Radlett Station platform 2 for a circular walk from St Albans City Station.



These walks are for reasonably fast and fit walkers only. Please do not come if you are unwell and/or walk slowly.

Solos

We meet on the second Sunday of the month at Allum Hall in Elstree at 10.30 am for a get together with coffee and chat and organising what members would like to do during the month. If you are not on my mailing list and would like to be, please let me know. **Adrienne** chairman@radlettu3a.org.uk

Keep fit/exercise group

The exercise class that was due to start a while ago is now up and ready. It will be weekly on Wednesday afternoon starting on 10th April at the Phillimore centre, Battlers Green, from 2.30 – 3.30. £3 fee. The first session will be ascertaining what members want and Pam will set it accordingly. Please call or email Pam Rose if you would like to join in. **01923 853199** or pamfran63@gmail.com

Reading books is a novel idea



It was so lovely to see the full complement of 10 people for the first time ever at our March book club. We reviewed our latest book Remember me by Lesley Pearse , nine of us had either finished it or were still reading it.

It was based on a true story about a woman who is convicted for theft for stealing a hat and transported to Botany Bay.

The tale revolves around the treacherous voyage to Australia during which she becomes pregnant and bears a child.

Mary and her fellow convicts face a harrowing life in the newly established penal colony.

It was Mary's leadership and determination to escape that makes the story a gripping tale.

The topics of discussion were inspired by our thoughts whilst reading it, as to what would we have done under similar circumstances.

The penal colonies seemed to have been set up without proper planning for provisions, and combined with the lack of skills of both convicts and supervising officers this contributed to the problem of possible death either by starvation or disease.

Corruption involving under feeding the convicts on the journey out when they were on an allowance of £17.7s6d a head for rations in order to make more money was also a huge problem.

Provision ships often didn't arrive due to being shipwrecked or if they did foodstuffs had often spoilt with poor storage or were stolen.

Although Mary was of lowly birth , illiterate and a woman, where her role in society would have been very different to today, she still stood out in the story as intelligent, kind and a natural leader.

We all thought the book was extremely interesting and would definitely recommend it.

The next meeting is on Thursday 4th April 10 am to 12 noon.

Our next book is Happiness Falls by Angie Kim.

This is a story about a complex family whose lives are upended by the disappearance of the father Adam Parson who vanishes whilst hiking in a suburban Virginia Park with his non-verbal 14 year old son Eugene.

The biracial family grapple with the meaning of happiness and their own lives in the events that follow from him going missing.



OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The Thread by Victoria Hislop.

The Island by Victoria Hislop.

The Island of missing trees by Elif Shafak.

Trust me and other titles by TM Logan.

Going Zero by Anthony Mc Carten.

Trust me by Lesley Pearse.

The little house by Philippa Gregory.

Pru and Me by Timothy West.

The last thing I remember by Deborah Bee.

The stranger by Harlan Coben.

The Queen of Paris by coco Chanel.

Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier.

Please note all our Book club meetings for 2024 will be on the first Thursday of the month except for in October when it will be moved to Thursday 10th October because of the Jewish New Year Best wishes, **Sharon Strong**

Music Appreciation

The Music Appreciation Group is going from strength to strength, with over 50 attending our March meeting; a most interesting presentation by Colin Berkovitch of the musical Lloyd Webber family; William, Julian and Andrew. Our next meeting is on Monday 15 April 2.30 pm at St. John's Church Gill's Hill Lane. Tony Clayden and I will jointly present the life and prolific work of Sir Arthur Sullivan.

Feted in his lifetime (including by Royalty) as the leading English composer, his many serious works, orchestral, choral and songs, rapidly faded from the repertoire after his death, leaving him remembered only as the musical partner in the Gilbert & Sullivan Operettas (from which all of us can hum a tune or two). You will hear about his creative and personal life and hear many lovely compositions you have probably never heard of.

There is room for all u3a members, no need to book. Please bring your membership lanyard plus £4 for hall-hire and refreshments. **Edward Cross** (Edx2017@outlook.com)

Duplicate Bridge

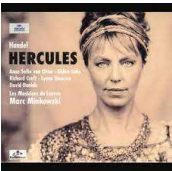
The duplicate bridge group had a successful face to face session on the 21st March with 7 tables playing. In April we are back to playing online again and will play on the 11th and 25th. The 11th April session will be part of a Nationwide u3a Charity event.

If you would like to play on any of those dates, please let me know.

Given the success of the face-to-face session I will look at organising another session in May - let me know ASAP if you are interested in that. **Gary Harding**

Film & TV appreciation

The next meeting of the Film & TV group will take place on Thursday 4th April. The meetings are usually full with group members but if you want to be added to the waiting list, please let me know. **Gary Harding**



Opera Group

The Opera group next meets on Friday 19th April. This month we will start with the final act of Handel's Hercules (I showed the first two acts last month). I will probably then follow it with a short opera or perhaps an opera related documentary. **Gary Harding**

Cooking For One

Another successful meeting on Tuesday 26th March.

We prepared and enjoyed Linguine Bolognese served with a mixed salad; followed by Pancake Surprise. This was accompanied by a Montagne Saint-Emilion claret - Chateau Bayard 2020.

Future meetings now in the diaries – all start at 5:00pm at 3 Broadlands as usual:

Tuesday 7th May – Chestnut pancetta lentils with garlic chicken; followed by rhubarb (if still available fresh) crumble served with custard

Tuesday 25th June – menu to be determined. Best Wishes **Chris Wood**

Good Morning History Group,

_Hope you are all well and we are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our meeting on Tuesday 2nd April.

We will be meeting again at the Radlett Reform Synagogue in Watling Street at 11.00am. We have an excellent programme for you with our guest speaker, Dr Freddy Shaw who will be talking about the International Brigade, a volunteer brigade who fought on the Republican side against General Franco's Nationalists in the Spanish Civil War from 1936 to 1938. Dr Freddy's late father was a volunteer in the International Brigade and we will hear how many foreign nationals joined this Brigade as well some of the details of a brutal Civil War that somehow seems to have been forgotten but was a dress rehearsal for the Second Worlds War.

Dr Freddy Shaw is a retired GP who has had Medical Surgeries in Whitechapel in the East End as well as in Seven Kings in Ilford. Since retirement he has been very active in assisting post graduate medics in furthering their academic careers. Hopefully we will have another big attendance in our new venue.

We have been able to find the u3a sound amplifier and hopefully we can use this at our meetings if needed. Please remember to bring your £3.00 entrance fee to pay for our expenses.

Looking forward to another interesting History group meeting. **Stephen Forman and Harvey Miller**

A lovely message
Once upon a time! When Window was just a square hole in a room and Application was something written on a paper. When Keyboard was a Piano and Mouse just an animal. When File was an important office material and Hard Drive just an uncomfortable road trip. When Cut was done with knife and Paste with glue. When Web was a spider's home and Virus was flu. When Apple and Blackberry were just fruits - that's when we had a lot of time for family and friends.



I was visiting my DAUGHTER last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.
"This is the 21st century" she said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad."
I can tell you this... that fly never knew what hit him.

Pound shillings and pence
Two farthings would make a ha'penny
Two ha'pennies a penny for you
Three pennies would come to threepence
or a threepenny bit as we know
Six pennies would make up sixpence
two three penny bits did as well
All were known as a tanner
As any old tinner would tell
Twelve pennies were worth one shilling
Four threepenny bits two tanners a bob
Four tanners eight threepence two shillings
All would make a florin job
Two and six or a florin and sixpence
Would then become half a crown
Four half crowns made a ten bob note
Two ten bob notes a pound
A pound note and a shilling into a
guinea grew
This is old money pounds shillings and pence
I remember it well do you?

EVENTS NEWS.....

PLEASE NOTE:

1. You must phone or email the Organiser to make sure there is a place for you before you pay.
2. You will not have a confirmed place on our lists until your payment has been received.

We do not automatically offer refunds for any cancellations by our members . It is up to you to resell your tickets to another u3a member or, if we have a waiting list and are able to sell your ticket to someone on the that list, we will then refund you after receiving the new payment. Please note that if we do have a waiting list this is not a guarantee that we can resell the ticket as member's plans do change nearer the date.

When paying for outings and events please only pay by credit card (via the website) or by cheque. No cash please. We cannot accept payments direct to the Radlett & District u3a bank account.

If you are paying for two members by credit-card please show both names on the payments form.

**** WAITING LIST ****



**JOIN US FOR A SUPPER QUIZ EVENING AT
BLUE CHECK RESTAURANT 144 HIGH STREET BUSHEY WD23 3DH
ON TUESDAY 16th APRIL AT 6.45 pm for 7pm START - £21.50
WHY NOT MAKE UP TABLES OF 8 FOR A DELICIOUS 2 COURSE MEAL AND A FUN
QUIZ ?**

Contact: Helen Bocarro
helenbocarro@yahoo.co.uk
01923 858155

**ELLEN KENT AND THE UKRAINIAN OPERA & BALLET THEATRE PRODUCTION OF
PUCCINI'S**

MADAME BUTTERFLY

AT

AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE

ON SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024

DEPART RADLETT 5.30pm

£54



One of the world's most popular operas, Puccini's Madama Butterfly tells the heart-breaking story of the beautiful young Japanese girl who falls in love with an American naval lieutenant – with dramatic results.

Highlights include the melodic Humming Chorus, the moving aria One Fine Day and the unforgettable Love Duet. Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Contact: Sandra Clark sandrau3a@hotmail.com 07770 467381

A VISIT TO WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL



**ON THURSDAY 23rd MAY
DEPART RADLETT 9.30am
£32**

OUR TOUR OF THE MAGNIFICENT 900 YEAR OLD CATHEDRAL WILL INCLUDE THE EXHIBITION “KINGS & SCRIBES – BIRTH OF A NATION” WHICH TRACES THE STORY OF WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL FROM ITS ANGLO-SAXON ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT DAY.

WE WILL ALSO SEE THE FINAL RESTING PLACES OF FAMOUS KINGS & QUEENS.

AFTER OUR VISIT WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE A SHORT STROLL INTO THE CITY CENTRE TO THE HISTORIC MARKET WHICH DATES BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS. YOU WILL HAVE TIME TO WANDER THE MEDIEVAL STREETS AND STOP FOR A SNACK AT ONE OF THE MANY CAFES.

Contact: Stephen Gold

sgoldprop@aol.com

07831 559930



THE MUSICAL MUSEUM

**BY KEW BRIDGE
ON WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE
LEAVE RADLETT 9.15am
£28**



The Musical Museum tells the fascinating story of how people have captured and listened to music over the last four centuries.

Our tour will involve live presentations of a range on instruments including musical boxes, reproducing pianos, organs and self-playing violins. We will also visit the concert hall where the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ can be demonstrated.

Tea and Coffee will be served

Contact: Joan Altman

joanaltmanu3a@outlook.com 07703 161357



**** WAITING LIST ****

**TOUR OF DENBIES WINE ESTATE & WINE TASTING
ON TUESDAY 18th JUNE**

LEAVE RADLETT 9.30am £34.50

Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking is one of England's largest single estate vineyards. With 265 acres currently under vine, it has a production capacity of 1 million bottles. The first vines were planted on the estate in 1986.

The 50-minute vineyard train tour takes visitors at a leisurely pace to some of the most beautiful viewing points in the vineyard. A recorded commentary enhances your trip making this an informative and comfortable way to experience the magnificent panoramic views of the Denbies Estate and the North Downs. Throughout the seasons the changing scenery captures the imagination, from the first bud burst of spring to the opulent vines of the autumn. Cameras recommended. You will then be able to purchase a snack or lunch from their restaurant. Following which we will have a cinema presentation, followed by a guided tour to their cellars and a wine tasting.

Contact: Stephen Gold

sgoldprop@aol.com

07831 559930

Carlos Acosta's Carmen



SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE

ON SATURDAY 6th JULY (MATINEE PERFORMANCE)

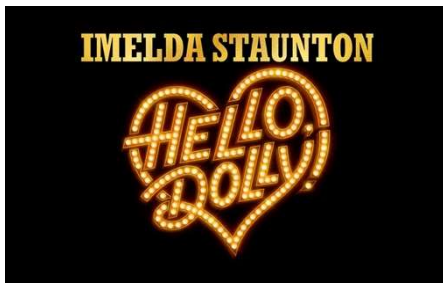
LEAVE RADLETT 11am £62

Carlos Acosta triumphantly returns to the Sadler's Wells stage to dance with his company of dancers in this passionate, classic tale of Bizet's Carmen, reimagined with his irresistible Cuban flair. You will have time for lunch in one of the many local restaurants.

Contact: Christine Essex

christineessexu3a@gmail.com

07967 509148



**DON'T MISS THE MUSICAL OF THE SUMMER!
HELLO DOLLY AT
THE LONDON PALLADIUM
STARRING IMELDA STAUNTON
ON TUESDAY 23rd JULY
LEAVE RADLETT AT 5pm. £61.50**

We have managed to get stall and circle seats and these will be allocated by ballot.

Contact: Sandra Clark

sandrau3a@hotmail.com 07770 467381

NEW NEW NEW



**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
DINNER IN THE PARK**

THURSDAY 27th JUNE AT 7PM

Shenley Park, Radlett Lane, Shenley, Radlett WD7 9DW

£33

YOUR EVENTS & OUTINGS COMMITTEE ARE DELIGHTED TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER IN THE PARK

WHILE EATING THE DELICIOUS FOOD WE WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY LOVELY VIEWS OF THE WOODLAND AND ORCHARD.

WE WILL HAVE A WELCOMING GLASS OF SUMMER PIMMS FOLLOWED BY A CHOICE OF MAIN COURSES WHICH WILL ALSO INCLUDE A FISH AND VEGETARIAN OPTION, SALADS, AND TEMPTING DESSERTS.

Contact: Vivien Summers

events@radlettu3a.org.uk

01923 856728

TRIP TO BRIGHTON



Come and enjoy a day out at the seaside – sunshine & deckchairs await you.

WEDNESDAY 10th JULY

DEPART RADLETT 9am

£23

Enjoy bingo on the journey and then spend time discovering the many delights of this quintessential British seaside resort.

Contact: Val Gold

valeriegoldu3a@gmail.com

07831 562362



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**OUTING TO:
THE ANAESTHESIA HERITAGE CENTRE
AT
21 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON, W1B 1PY
ON
TUESDAY 17th JULY
MEET THERE AT 11am
£5.50**

NO COACH. MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THERE

The Anaesthesia Heritage Centre tells the remarkable story of anaesthesia, from its first public demonstration in 1846 to modern day anaesthetists working in the aftermath of wars and terrorist attacks. The Museum, rare book collection and archive are a unique resource for both curious visitors and specialist researchers. The museum has a permanent and a temporary display, as well as pull-out drawers and flip books containing biographies and details of large anaesthetic machines. The collections give an insight into the history of anaesthesia, resuscitation and pain relief.

We will have a talk followed by a self-guided tour.

*Contact: Peter Brent
peterbrent35@gmail.com
01923 858155*

Our most amazing evening at Westminster Abbey

Our u3a started about 12 years ago and since then, we have always had an exceptional Events Committee. Over these years, other than during Covid, the committee have organized more than 330 events and tours to places of interest and you don't need me to tell you, each member of the committee works incredibly hard to make sure every visit meets the highest standard possible and our night-time tour last Saturday to a very special evening at Westminster Abbey, can only be described as simply magical and in my opinion, was most certainly the **very best** event we have ever organised. Those of you who were unable to go, most certainly missed a once in a lifetime tour.

Due to there being a long waiting list, this special evening was booked over 4 years ago. Try to imagine, the Abbey was closed to the public with just 20 members of our u3a group, a group from The Worshipful Co of Spectacle Makers and the Harpenden Arts Society. There was a total of about 60 of us and at about 7 pm we were welcomed by members of the Purcell Club Choir who led us into the Abbey to our seats in the nave just in front of the tomb of the Unknown Warrior and near the Coronation Chair. We were warmly welcomed by historian David Carpenter whose late father was Dean of the Abbey.

For the next 2 hours, David and the choir lead us in virtual darkness with just a few lights on dim giving us an amazing atmosphere. Every time we stopped for an incredible history lesson the choir sang beautifully just for us. Our tour took us to the amazing St. Edward the Confessor Shrine containing the body of the Saint. Surrounding this most elaborate and magnificent tomb were the remains of Kings Henry III, Edward I, Edward III, Richard II and Henry V. We then moved onto King Henry VII's Chapel. The amazing Lady Chapel built by Henry VII whose body and that of his wife, Elizabeth of York lie east of the Chapel's High Alter. In its side chapels we saw and walked round the incredible tombs of Queen Elizabeth I, her sister Queen Mary and Mary Queen of Scots. It was truly a privilege to for us to be there.

We continued to various other royal chapels and numerous royal tombs. We proceeded to Poet's corner where we saw the graves of Oscar Wilde, Sir John Betjeman, Ted Hughes, Charles Dickens and George Frederick Handel and so very many more.

After the choir sang for the final time, we were given a recital on the Abbey's stupendous organ with 700 pipes. As we walked away in almost a daze, we looked through the gates of St. Georges Chapel to see the 700-year-old Coronation Chair. An evening never to be forgotten. **Stephen Gold. (Seconded by me – fabulous - Adrienne)**



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

At our last meeting I mentioned that a member suggested that we should have a creative writing competition. It sounds a good, fun idea but can only work if you enter into the spirit and give it a try. Please send in your entries to me (about 500 words) – you can admit to it or it can be anonymous. and we will organise a team of judges.



Here is the dictionary definition so use your imagination and let's have some good stories. Dictionary definition writing, typically fiction or poetry, which displays imagination or invention (often contrasted with academic or journalistic writing).

What best defines creative writing?

Creative, artistic writing uses words to convey emotion or feeling. One must use imaginary scenarios invented by themselves. **Adrienne**

When I was a young lady, I lived in Leeds. The major tailoring shop for gentlemen's clothing was Montague Burton. It was always known as Monty Burton. (As if everyone knew him personally!). When a gentleman was kitted out in a smart outfit, purchased at Monty's, it was known as "The Full Monty".....not the complete reverse as known these days as naked!!! That is where the name came from.....and don't you forget it!!! Carole C.

Jokes to make you groan...

I told my friend that I had just bought a Van Gogh coffee table.
She asked me how I knew it was a genuine Van Gogh.
I told her I knew it was a genuine Van Gogh
because it's got a bit of veneer missing.

I walked into a bar and Van Gogh was there so I said
"Hello Van do you want a drink?" He said"
No, it's alright I've got one 'ere".

Alison

A slightly depressing but emotive little poem from the Daily Mail but one which I am sure can resonate with many of us (not necessarily about Mum but with any loved one)

Sitting with mum,

*The care staff are tidy, efficient, no-frills,
A bagel and soup, then her teeth and her pills
They gave her a wash and then got her to bed
As dignity faltered and quietly fled
Her age and the time and the friends left behind
Each pause, then escape through the gates in her mind,
She started to speak before losing the thread
Then suddenly asked "will it help when I'm dead".
The crosswords and puzzles lie stacked in a drawer,
Along with a pen she can't use anymore.
A wavering smile became mystified dread
When lost for the name of the man she once wed
She murmurs a secret - "the cook's hair is dyed"
Then tablets kick in and her head sags aside.
It could be a while or a few days ahead.
I hope for us both, I've left nothing unsaid.*



Hi all

Well we have now watched One Day, the story in 14 quite short parts of two young people meeting for the first time at their college graduation and then they can't stop thinking about each other. Then each episode shows them on the same day on about 20 subsequent years. They lead separate lives on the whole and an extraordinary relationship develops between them over the years. We enjoyed it so much and it was very well acted, especially the two main characters played by Ambika Mod and Leo Woodall. This is on Netflix.



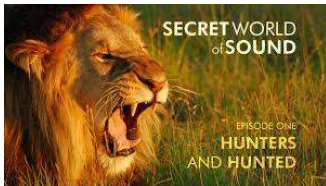
The New Look on Apple TV is about Christian Dior during the war, and features him, Pierre Cardin, Balmain, Coco Chanel and many other couturiers. Set mainly in Paris, it covers the occupation of the Germans and the effect the 2nd World war has on the couture industry in France. It stars Juliette Binoche as Coco, and the 1940s costumes are gorgeous.

A very good and interesting series that mainly shows Christian Dior's journey from brilliant designer to having his own fashion line, and also highlights the French Resistance and what they went through to resist the Germans during the war. We have watched the 8 episodes that have been released so far.

The Rise & Fall of Boris Johnson is a 4-part documentary on Channel 4 and it shows interesting clips from his childhood to the present day. We think it's well edited and many people are interviewed who came in contact with him over the years.



Masters of the Air on Apple TV stars Austin Butler and Callum Turner in a nine-part series. It's about the American airmen based in East Anglia during the 2nd World war, and how they went on bombing missions mostly during the day, which was very dangerous. And it shows how very many planes and young American men were lost. Not being a particular fan of war films, I was surprised how much I enjoyed this series. The filming of the missions was really fabulously done. All the characters are based on real people during actual missions, and Apple are accompanying it with a short documentary interviewing some of the pilots. This series cost \$264 million!



Yet another fantastic animal programme compered by the amazing Sir David Attenborough is called The Secret World of Sound, in three parts on Sky. He explores the incredible way animals, birds and eve fish, hear and produce sound to hunt, escape and defend themselves. Truly ground-breaking and well worth seeing.

Peter Sellers: The Dark Side of the Goon available on channel 5 catch-up is a new documentary about the life of the great actor and comic. He was a very complex character and quite a womaniser, but he had such marvellous talent - with straight acting parts as well as comic ones. A true genius.



Lastly there was Alice & Jack on Channel 4. It is about another romantic relationship, over 16 years, but unlike One Day the female lead brilliantly played by Andrea Risborough is a clever businesswoman who is a very damaged person. The male lead is played by Domhnall Gleeson and the acting is superb. It's a bit slow in parts but worth sticking with, in our opinion, as it's a great series.

Happy watching Terri & Brian

**u3a HOLIDAY TO NORFOLK 1ST – 5TH SEPTEMBER
DOUBLE ROOMS ONLY!
£625 per person**

We still have a few double rooms available for the u3a Norfolk Holiday. These can be for couples who are either members of Radlett or another u3a. Or for two friends from different u3a's – as long as both are members. If you're interested contact, Cathy Pole, by email, pole2pole@gmail.com and you will be sent the relevant information, itinerary and booking form.

**Our meeting this month is on Tuesday 9th April
At the Metropolitan Centre Bushey at 10am**

**Tony Klinger
(Film maker and author)**

“Crazy Adventures in the Film Business”



CAN'T COOK – WON'T COOK



My husband Malcolm was a character, and useless in the kitchen.

For example; when we were first married, I once sent him out for a carton of double cream and he came back with two singles! And when he had to grill his own steak, because I was ill in bed, he banged around in the kitchen for 10 minutes and then came in and asked: "Where's the grill?"

In the 1990s there was an afternoon programme on BBC TV called 'Can't Cook, Won't Cook'. On a whim I wrote in and applied to appear on the show. Imagine my amazement when we received a letter inviting us to an audition.

So along we went and sat quietly in the room; two middle aged people, minding our own business.

We were called in for the interview and as we left, Malcolm whispered to me in a stage whisper 'Don't call us, we'll call you!' Well, they did call us, and up we went to Pebble Mill to appear on the show. I did ask why we were chosen, and I was told that it was the Donald Duck socks that Malcolm was wearing that did it!



We were introduced to Kevin Woodford, the resident Chef, and the other couple, two young newlyweds. She was the Can't Cook and Malcolm the Won't Cook.

Kevin showed us what to cook; fresh salmon with a watercress sauce, boiled new potatoes and julienned vegetables. He demonstrated the method, and then it was the contestants' turn.

Well, it was hysterical! The cameramen were falling off their seats, rolling with laughter, and Kevin couldn't keep a straight face.

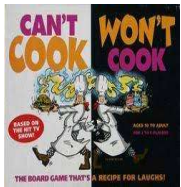
Kevin showed them how to put the watercress in the blender, but was laughing so much that he couldn't get the lid on. 'Come on Malcolm', he said, 'I need your help.' 'I have to do everything in this place,' grumbled Malcolm as he put the lid on and pulverised the watercress.

Then he had to cut the veg into very fine strips – 'No! No! No, Malcolm!' cried Kevin. 'You'll chop your fingers off!' Which he very nearly did. I was sitting on the end of the counter and didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

They boiled the potatoes, steamed the veg, 'gently' fried the salmon and made a watercress sauce with white wine. All this with many hiccups on the way!

Then it was time to show off the rather inelegant dishes. No 'nouvelle cuisine' for these two!

The young groom and I were blindfolded, and we had to taste and vote the best plate. We voted for each other's dishes!



Kevin then tasted and gave the casting vote. And Malcolm won! Amidst great cheers he was awarded his prize, together with a chef's hat and apron, of which he was very proud.

This wasn't the end of the story. A week later, we received a letter from a film company in Wardour Street, offering Malcolm a chance to present a new cookery show that they were devising. Our son, David, was a printer, and he had mocked up the letter and said to our daughter-in-law, Erica. I know what Dad is going to do. He'll read the letter and go running into Mum and say "June! June! I've been discovered!" "

This is exactly what happened, and we pored over the letter in wonder until I spotted at the foot of the letter, the signature of the writer...

A P Lonker

I did, however, get the last word when a lady came up to me in Tesco and asked: 'Is your husband still cooking?'

June Marks



To all our members, celebrate your holiday and pray for
peace
and happiness throughout the world.
We wish you and your families a happy time.



DINGBATS

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| AMB T ON | EE E ARR. EE E DEP. | BY & | MEREPEAT |
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 |
| H ₂ OSE | ONE | GR 12" AVE | minstitchute |
| 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 |
| ATROCIOUS | O E R T O | CLOSE HARM | FAREDCE |
| 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

Postscript to last month's article about my Millie.



Thank you so much to all those doggie people who sent me messages after the newsletter. They were very much appreciated.

My house seemed like a morgue, so quiet and miserable. When I had come to terms with the loss of Millie, which my children took as when I stopped crying every time they spoke to me, my grandson started showing me animal rescue sites and the pictures of their dogs on line. I did feel disloyal but got talked out

of it, and needless to say, I was hooked. I sent off adoption forms to several charities, most didn't respond but one did, came to vet (sorry for the pun) my home and garden, and of course me.

Next thing I knew was that I was offered a little mutt, 3 years old, living in Scotland with foster mum but having recently come from Cyprus. I looked at her picture and had the first smile for 2 weeks. Quick happenings, corresponded with foster mum, arranged a halfway pick up in Leeds, my daughter and I drove up, transferred her from driver to me in her crate, she slept all the way home and then it was time for the first cuddle. She was incredibly timid, frightened of everything. But the first morning I came down to the kitchen and NO DOG. Where could she be hiding and how could I tell the adoption society that I had lost her already. On examination she had smashed through and demolished the cat flap and I eventually found her in next door's garden. Not good on the blood pressure. However, after a couple of weeks, cat flap is boarded up (poor cat) and Nellie is beginning to trust me and we love each other already.



Very sadly our member Marion Bulkan passed away this month. She had been very instrumental and involved in helping Diana set up the Heart of Herts group.

Condolences to her family and also to Jacques Weisser on the loss of his brother Marc.

Dingbat answers

1. Blind Ambition
2. Easy Come, Easy Go
3. By & Large
4. Repeat After Me
5. Water Hose
6. A Large One
7. One Foot In The Grave
8. A Stitch In Time
9. Bad Debts
10. Painless Operation
11. In Close Harmony
12. Red In The Face

SPRING IS HERE IN THE GARDEN

